

REMARKS

The Final Office Action of April 15, 2005, has been received and reviewed.

Claims 1-29 are currently pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application. Of these, claims 1-22 have been allowed. The Office has also indicated that the subject matter recited in claim 29 is allowable. Claims 23-28 stand rejected.

It is proposed that claim 23 be amended to include the limitations of claims 28 and 29 and that claims 28 and 29 be canceled. These proposals are made without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 23-26 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for reciting subject matter which is purportedly anticipated by that described in U.S. Patent 6,426,565 to Bhatt et al. (hereinafter "Bhatt").

It is proposed that independent claim 23 be amended to include the limitations of claim 29 and claim 28, from which claim 29 directly depends. As the Office has acknowledged that the subject matter recited in claim 29 is allowable, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 23 is also allowable.

Claims 24-26 are each allowable, among other reasons, for depending directly or indirectly from claim 23, which is allowable.

Claim 28 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections of claims 23-26 and 28 is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 27 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for reciting subject matter which is assertedly unpatentable over that taught in Bhatt, in view of teachings from U.S. Patent 6,448,507 to Fontecha et al. (hereinafter "Fontecha").

Claim 27 is allowable, among other reasons, for depending indirectly from claim 23, which is allowable.

Claim 27 is additionally allowable because the teachings of Bhatt and Fonteca do not support a *prima facie* case of obviousness against the subject matter to which claim 27 is directed. In particular, it is respectfully submitted that, without improperly relying upon the hindsight provided by the disclosure of the above-referenced application, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Bhatt and Fonteca in the asserted manner. The teachings of Bhatt are drawn to carrier substrates that include features for receiving excess adhesive. The teachings of Fonteca are, in contrast, drawn to solder masks that are configured for use with conventional substrates (*e.g.*, circuit boards) and that include features for receiving excess adhesive. As the substrate of Bhatt already includes features for receiving excess adhesive, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine teachings that relate to solder masks with adhesive-receiving features with teachings from Bhatt.

Therefore, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), claim 27 is allowable over teachings from Bhatt and Fonteca.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 27 is respectfully requested.

Entry of Amendments

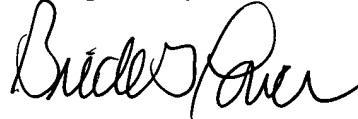
Entry of the proposed amendments is respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the proposed amendments do not introduce new matter into the above-referenced application, and that their entry would not necessitate an additional search. Moreover, by addressing the only rejections remaining in the above-referenced application, entry of the proposed amendments would reduce the number of issues that remain for purposes of appeal to zero.

If the proposed amendments are not entered, it is respectfully requested that they be entered when a Notice of Appeal is filed in the above-referenced application.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-27 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brick G. Power", written in a cursive style.

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Date: August 3, 2005
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Document in ProLaw